

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CARTER INAUGURAL GIVEN HEAVY MEDIA PLAY - ONE PAPER USES
IT FOR OBLIQUE ATTACK ON GOU

1. THE URUGUAYAN MEDIA GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO THE CARTER INAUGURATION ON JANUARY 20. EIGHT MONTEVIDEO RADIO STATIONS CARRIED LIVE VOA COVERAGE AND ALL MAJOR DAILIES HIGHLIGHTED THE EVENT. PRESS COVERAGE INCLUDED PHOTOS AND BIOS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, WIRE SERVICE BACKGROUNDEERS, INAUGURAL DETAILS, AND, IN ONE CASE, A LENGTHY SURVEY OF THE POSITIONS CANDIDATE CARTER TOOK ON A VARIETY OF POLICY MATTERS. EL PAIS EDITORIALIZED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMOVAL FROM THE SCENE MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE DAY, ADMITTING THAT THIS MIGHT SEEM STRANGE.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL APPEARED IN MONTEVIDEO'S ONLY OPPOSITION PAPER, THE PRESTIGIOUS EL DIA, WHICH PUBLISHED A LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED SIMPLY, "(THE) EXAMPLE", ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE EL DIA EDITORIAL OF JAN 20: "BEGINNING TODAY, CITIZEN JAMES CARTER WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF CITIZEN GERALD FORD AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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"(THIS IS THE RESULT OF) THE FREE DECISION OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS...LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY BECAUSE THEY ARE FREE...AMERICANS ARE BEARING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WORLD THAT NO GOVERNMENT IS STRONGER THAN THAT WHICH COMBINES THE IRREPLACEABLE ADVANTAGES OF THE POPULUS WITH THE PREEMINENCE OF POWER.

"CARTER IS A PERSON IN THE SOUL OF THE PEOPLE. HE WOULD BE SO EVEN IF HE HADN'T BEEN ELECTED, JUST AS FORD WILL CONTINUE AS A VERY

IMPORTANT PERSON BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT HE RECEIVED THE VOTE OF ALMOSTHALF THE COUNTRY EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NO LONGER RULE...
"WE COULD ALSO REFLECT ON THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOT YET SOLVED, AND WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY STILL HAS, SUCH AS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OR THE DEATH PENALTY. WE COULD ANALYZE WHAT IN LIBERAL CAPITALISM IS GOOD AND IN WHAT IT FAILS.

"BUT ALL THAT, BEING TRANSCENDENTAL, SEEMS TO US - STILL SEEMS TO US -- MUCH LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS, BETWEEN TENDENCIES, BETWEEN IDEAS, AS TAKEN FROM THE AMERICAN MODEL WHICH INSPIRED THE INSTRUCTIONS OF ARTIGAS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NOTHING SO IMPORTANT AS LIBERTY, ALSO AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. FRANKLIN WAS RIGHT WHEN HE WAS TEACHING...THAT HE WHO IS DISPOSED TO EXCHANGE HIS LIBERTY FOR SECURITY IS LEFT WITHOUT EITHER SECURITY OR LIBERTY. AND IF A THOUSAND PROBLEMS ARE AWAITING, THREATENING AND MAKING DEMANDS ON THE MAN OF OUR TIMES, AND ON THE SUPER-POWERS WITH WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITY, NONE OF THESE PROBLEMS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO BE FREE, BECAUSE BEING FREE THEY (THE PROBLEMS) CAN BE RESOLVED AS THEY ARISE BUT WITHOUT FREEDOM PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN TRY TO FACE THEM.

"IN SAYING THIS, WE KNOW WE ARE REFLECTING THE FEELINGS OF THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE. THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE, LOVERS OF DEMOCRACY NEVER LESS THAN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, FEEL THAT THE TRANSMISSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER IN WASHINGTON REFLECTS THE UNIVERSAL VALUE THAT ALWAYS SERVED OUR REPUBLICANISM.

"AND BECAUSE OF THAT, OUR PEOPLE HOPE FOR THE GOOD FORTUNE AND SUCCESS OF THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, IN THE CONVICTION THAT, IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NAZIFICISM YESTERDAY AND AGAINST COMMUNISM TODAY, THE LIBERTY EXEMPLIFIED BY AMERICANS IS THE (SAME) LIBERTY
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WHICH ALL RATIONRL BEINGS IN THE WORLD SEEK, DESIRE, HOPE FOR, DREAM OF, AND MUST BUILD."

3. COMMENT: EL DAI FOLLOWED ITS WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF USING COMMENTS ON EVENTS ABROAD FOR OBLIQUE ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOU. THE KEY PHRASE FOR URUGUAYANS, WHO WERE DEPRIVED OF CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1976 WHILE THEIR GOVERNMENT WAS STRESSING SECURITY FOR DEVELOPMENT, WAS "FRANKLIN WAS RIGHT WHEN HE WAS TEACHING...THAT HE WHO IS DISPOSED TO EXCHANGE HIS LIBERTY FOR SECURITY IS LEFT WITHOUT EITHER SECURITY OR LIBERTY". AND THE URUGUAYAN READERS WILL NOT MISS THE POINTED REMARK IN THE FINAL SENTENCE THAT ALL "RATIONAL" MEN SEARCH FOR AND DESIRE LIBERTY.
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